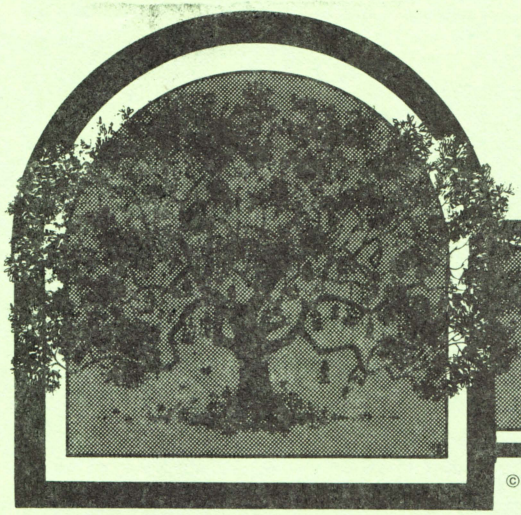
DISNEY COLLECTION
DOES NOT CIRCULATE



A Newsletter for the Horticulture Division of Walt Disney World

Every Bloomin' Thing

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Vol. 4, No. 1 Jan./Feb. 1982

FROM TONY'S DESK

With the new year ahead of us, the air of excitement continues to prevail with only 8 months remaining for opening of Epcot Center! A few "old-timers" will remember this as our 4th major fete within 2½ decades .... Disneyland in 1955, New York World's Fair in 1965, Walt Disney World in 1971 and now this year, the most challenging of all, Epcot Center.

Others are asking, as we are also, "How is the landscaping effort progressing as compared to Walt Disney World?" Well, let's see - the main parking lot, February 23, 1981 (minus 20 months); berms in Showcase, between United Kingdom and France in May (minus 17 months). By mid-March we will have completed most of the berms and the promenade areas (minus 7 months). The balance will be completed as the exteriors of the various pavilions are completed. For Future World, however, the floodgates are yet to open, with our first plantings of Magnolias becoming a reality in mid-February (minus 7½ months). Compare this with WDW start dates - Jungle Cruise, minus 17 months; Town Square Elms, minus 12 months; Oaks in the Hub, minus 14 months; just to name a few!

What does this mean to us in Horticulture for this project? With the sands of time pouring quickly, it means a CHALLENGE! It means "teamwork", it means superior "planning and scheduling", it means "people" and above all else, a continuing "cheerful and positive" attitude by all of us.

Tony

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* PLANT OF THE MONTH *
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Euphorbia pulcherrima
("Poinsettia")

The star of our holiday show, the Poinsettia, was first introduced into the United States from Mexico in 1825 by Joel Robert Poinsett, our first ambassador to Mexico. Poinsett sent the first plants to his home in South Carolina and then distributed others to botanical gardens and horticultural friends. One such friend was John Bartram of Philadelphia. Bartram supplied a specimen of the plant to a nurseryman who, in turn, began growing and selling Poinsettias.

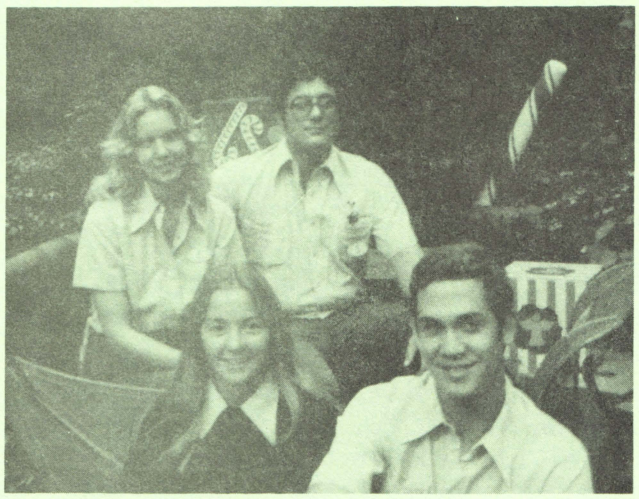
The showy petal-like bracts of the Poinsettia have come to be a symbol of Christmas in many parts of the world. In shades of red, pink, and white, the colorful bracts surround a cluster of yellowish structures, called cyathia, which are the true flowers of the Poinsettia.

About 3 months are required to produce the many 4 and 6 inch plants which are contract grown for us. Starting with cuttings in September, our growers follow a strict regimen of cultural practices -- carefully monitoring light intensity, temperature, and applications of fertilizer and growth regulators. The careful control of all of these factors, along with the shorter days of winter, help to assure that our plants are ready on time... and ready they were! This year, our guests were greeted by a holiday show across the property that included over 10,000 Poinsettias!

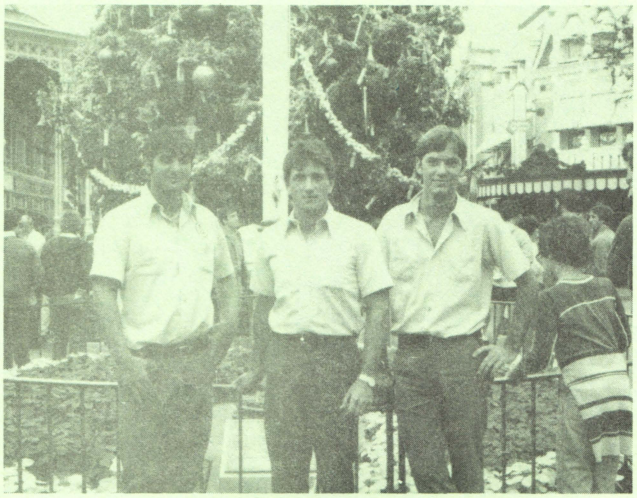
In this issue of "Every Bloomin' Thing" we offer a lighthearted look at the holiday season. Debbie Snow from our Tree Farm/Nursery contributed this variation of the popular Christmas ballad, "T'was the Night Before Christmas."

"T'WAS A FEW DAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS"

T'was a few days after Christmas
and all through the park,
all our creatures were stirring
even though it was dark.
The poinsettia baskets were hanging with care,
our gardeners wishing
they would always be there.
The indoor crew was all snug in their sleigh,
while the scent of fresh evergreens
drifted their way.
And I with my camera and notepad in hand,
had just started out to visit the lands.



When down in Town Square
rose a terrible clatter,
I ran fast as I could
to see what was the matter.
To the front of the Christmas tree
I flew with a dash,
focused my camera and started to flash.
When what to my wandering eyes did appear,
but three proud gardeners --
or were they Mouseketeers?

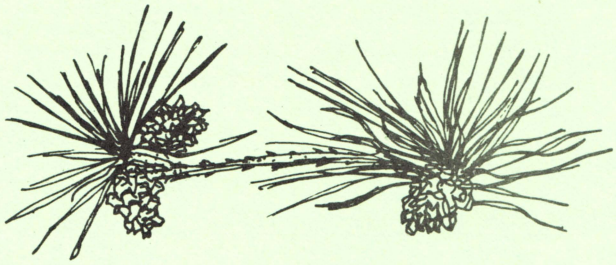


The music played tunes of jolly St. Nick,
So I knew in a moment that I must be quick.
To the end of Main Street,
we call it "The Hub", for more candid shots
which I better not flub!

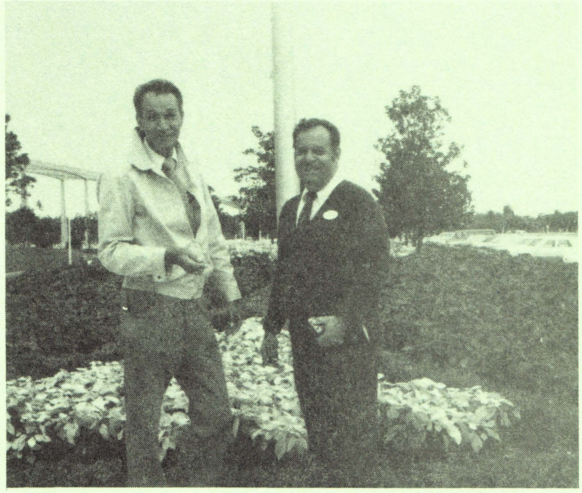
I stumbled upon a beautiful swan,
surrounded by poinsettias
on a manicured lawn.
Where someone I spied all dressed in green,
sitting in front of this beautiful scene.
His eyes, how they sparkled,
his dimples how merry,
his cheeks like a rose,
his nose like a cherry.
But Christmas is past so I know who it's not,
could it be Herb in this wonderful spot?

There's so much to see and so little time,
so I hurried around and what did I find?
In front of the Castle another display,
where two happy gardeners welcomed the day.
When they heard me exclaim
"What a beautiful sight!"
They smiled and said...
"You're absolutely right."

As I started to leave and turn about,
I saw something pretty along my route.
What? More poinsettias in colorful bloom?
I surely must see this not a moment too soon.
I got a great shot of two cheerful dwarfs,
who wound up here
as they walked their course.
When asked if they needed help on their way,
Donna and Rich just said they would stay.
"We know this flower bed won't be here long,
so we'll stay here with it until it is gone."



Now safe in my seat on the monorail beam,
my beautiful pictures seemed like a dream.
My, what a place this Walt Disney World is,
and I glanced out the window
and said "Gee Whiz."
For there below me gleaming with pride,
was another display more than a smile wide.



The Contemporary flagpole
burst with holiday cheer.
A spectacular show
for this time of year.
Not only was red and white to be seen,
but both Franks were there
decked out in green.

It's surely a shame that Christmas has passed,
but the plants of the season
have not seen their last.
For down at the Nursery nearly all year long,
poinsettias are trained to make them strong.
This guy named Barry has his work cut out,
and a great job he'll do without a doubt.

I truly have enjoyed my stay.
It really brightened up my day.
So thank you all for nothing less
than sharing all this happiness.

Happy New Year!

College of Horticulture Brings It Together

Our "Horticulture at the Walt Disney World Vacation Kingdom" class series brings it all together and gives you an opportunity to brush up on your horticultural skills and knowledge. Classes taught by our own supervision as well as by guest speakers are included in this yearlong program.

The topics covered range from the basics such as Botany and Soils to more specialized subjects such as Pruning, Irrigation, and Topiary Production. All in all, some 23 topics are covered. Although we begin with an introductory class every February, new cast members may begin the program at any time, finishing up one year later.

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Facilities Learning Center

Specialized training in equipment operation and product seminars are two of the ways in which the Facilities Learning Center can help you sharpen your skills.

Special pieces of equipment requiring certification through the Learning Center include the high reach, bucket truck, and forklift. LP fueling classes are also held on a regular basis.

In addition to equipment certification, classes on topics such as blueprint reading and architectural drawing are also held at the Facilities Learning Center.

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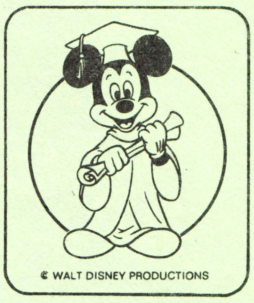
Gardener Trainees "Really Dig" Tree Farm Work

Our Gardener and Pest Control Operator Trainees for 1982 are on board and in the areas. Our Gardener Trainees begin their rotation with 4 months at the Tree Farm and Nursery.

Congratulations are in order for our 1981 graduates -- best of luck to Scott, Nancy, Roy, Brian, Erica, and Bob!

Disney University



From cast development programs to continuing education, there is something for everyone at the Disney University.

In addition to the Disney Traditions orientation class for new cast members, the University offers a variety of other programs which can help you improve your general job skills as well as help you develop new ones. Among the courses available to help you improve or update your skills are Lead Development, Disney Trainers, C.P.R., and We've Come A Long Way, Mickey.

Courses offered through Valencia Community College and Orange County Adult Education are also held at the Disney University. Subjects such as Spanish, Supervision, and Business Communications are offered each semester. Watch Eyes & Ears for information regarding these cooperative education courses taught at the University in the Center Building.

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Horticulture and Pest Control at VCC

VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Programs in both Horticulture and Pest Control Technology are in full swing at Valencia Community College. From orchidology to entomology, a full range of classes is offered every year. Whether you are interested in pursuing a degree or just satisfying your curiosity, Valencia is worth looking into.

If you take a course related to the duties of your present position, you may be eligible for reimbursement. Contact our Division Training Office or the Disney University for more information.

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Would you like to contribute to "Every Bloomin' Thing" or help present a College of Horticulture class session? Your participation is welcomed... please stop by our office at the Tree Farm or give us a call at 824-5152.

Editor: Tom Underwood

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